

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

December 20 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

Neil McDonald

Award-Winning Journalist

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

December 27 - No Meeting

January 3 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

January 10 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

Dr. Caroline Crocker

### December 13 Meeting Report:

**Wootton High School Interact Club**

**Officers Describe Their Service Projects**



Interact Officers Vinay, Grace and Deanne described a number of their service projects

including bikes for the world; turkeys for low-income families; sandwiches for the homeless; and hats, mittens and cards for Childrens' Hospital. They meet alternate Wednesdays after classes at Wootton High School.



**Don Hiruo; Nadim Salti; Stephen Achamou**

**Nadim Salti** was back from a trip to Beirut, Lebanon, and discussed the latest political developments facing the country and the Middle East. The annual meeting and election of officers was held and we congratulate the following Rotarians on their election: President **Todd Nitkin**; President Elect **Noel Howard**; Vice President **Nabil Bedewi**; Secretary **Tom Leuchtenburg**; and Treasurer

**Alan Cookson**. We again welcomed **Stephen M. Heinz Achamou**, for the second time. **Noel Howard** reported on the successful feeding of homeless at Sophia's House in Rockville. **\$1,002 happy dollars** were collected for the Manna Food Center. **Don Hiruo** gave his classification talk (see page 3).



**Rotarians Feed the Homeless at Sophia House**

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## **Rotarians Brighten the Holiday Season with Dinner and Gifts for the Homeless**

*by Noel Howard*

The Potomac-Bethesda Rotary-sponsored 'Dinner Date' for 32 homeless ladies at the Rockville Community-Based Shelter on Tuesday, December 11 was a roaring success thanks to the support of so many of our members (with family & friends in some



instances) who had to brave some of the worst traffic jams in local history. Participants included President Don Smith, Immediate Past President Jerry Gross, President-Elect Todd Nitkin (& lovely wife & daughters), Phil Meade, Nabil Bedewi (& his lovely family), Dick Gordon & his son, Peter, and my wife Gladys and sister-in-law, Marie. The food was extremely well received. One of the homeless ladies was coaxed into displaying some of her acrylic paintings



which demonstrated her considerable talent (unfortunately no photos are available) and raised the question of how best to help her develop a viable career. However, the highlight of the evening was the distribution of



the 32 gifts (including perfume & writing implements) obtained by Gladys Howard--some of the attractive gift boxes are shown in one of the photos. Phil Meade discovered that the ladies could use a new TV set and suggested that we consider a special 'Happy Dollars' collection at some point to remedy that situation. A happy meal and a good time was had by all.

**Please send news articles and photos to Bob Nelson@NASA.gov for inclusion in the newsletter.**

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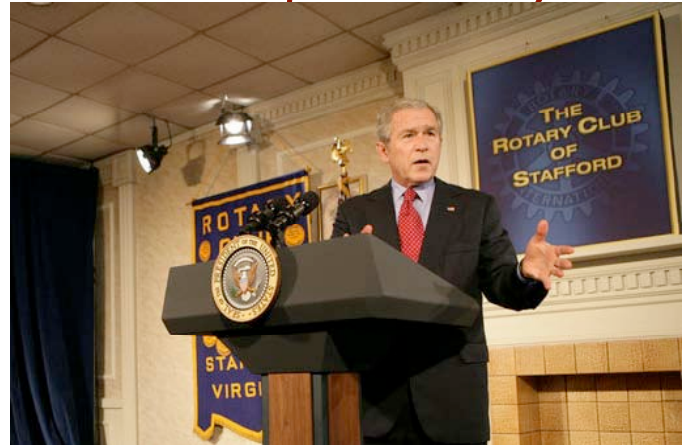
## ***Don Hiruo's Classification Talk***

**Don Hiruo** is Director of International Development for Goodwill Industries International, a \$3B nonprofit whose headquarters is in Rockville. Don's father was of Japanese descent and his mother was from Alabama. He was born and raised in Cleveland but his because of his father's profession of engineering, the family moved quite often. By the sixth grade Don had been in six different schools. He graduated from Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale Arizona and moved up to corporate staff in Detroit working for General Motors. His first experience with a non-profit corporation was with the Detroit Economic Service Corporation, a private non-profit organization that creates new investment and jobs in the city of Detroit by providing technical, financial and development assistance. He came to Goodwill earlier this year and has made some international trips including China. He has a brother in Connecticut and a sister in this area. His wife is still in Michigan marketing their home for sale. Thanks so much, Don, for an excellent talk.



***Don Hiruo on an International Trip for Goodwill Industries International***

## ***President Bush Speaks at Rotary Club***



President George W. Bush delivered remarks on the economy during a visit December 17 to Fredericksburg, Va., where he spoke to an audience of business and community leaders from the Rotary Club of Stafford, the Fredericksburg Rotary Club, the Rappahannock Rotary Club, and the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce.



## ***Côte d'Ivoire Rotarian Honored For Dedication To Polio Eradication***

By Joseph Derr Rotary International News - 18 December 2007

The International Catholic Child Bureau (Bureau Internationale Catholique de l'Enfance) has honored Marie-Irène Richmond-Ahoua, a Côte d'Ivoire Rotarian, for her work in helping protect her country's children against polio.

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A member of the Rotary Club of Abidjan-Bietry since 1991, Richmond-Ahoua received the nongovernmental organization's annual distinction, along with 19 other distinguished national personalities who have contributed to the well-being and dignity of children.

More than 25 Rotarians, representing all of the clubs in Abidjan, along with three Rotaract presidents, attended the 23 November ceremony at the Economic and Social Council headquarters in Abidjan.

Richmond-Ahoua has been a tireless supporter of polio eradication at the local level. Since 1997, she has volunteered to immunize children during National Immunization Days. She has served as chair of the Côte d'Ivoire PolioPlus Committee for nine years and chaired the District 9100 Polio Eradication Fundraising Campaign Committee.

"It is a privilege to receive [the distinction], thanks to the tremendous work done by all Rotarians in the field in order to eradicate polio," says Richmond-Ahoua. It is the sixth time she has been honored by her country for her volunteer work toward polio eradication. "All these awards are a real source of motivation to do more and more on behalf of Rotary International."

Richmond-Ahoua became the first female Rotary club president in West Africa in 1994. In addition to her polio eradication work, she has been involved in a variety of Rotary community service projects, from clean water initiatives to literacy programs for women. (In

Côte d'Ivoire, about two-thirds of the female population cannot read, write, or calculate simple math.)

"There is so much to do for humanity," Richmond-Ahoua says. "As an African woman and mother, I know what poverty means, I know what dignity means. Therefore, it is a must to pursue our fight against poliovirus."

*Rotarian Marie-Irène Richmond-Ahoua received an honor from The International Catholic Child Bureau for her work in helping protect children against polio. Photo by Steven Morris/AP*



## **After Contracting Polio, Survivor Immunizes Children**

By Janice S. Chambers Rotary International News - 6 December 2007 Photo courtesy of Jenny Horton

When Zaheer "Zak" Ahmed finally returned to Pakistan, after being diagnosed with polio and enduring weeks of isolation in Australia, one of the first things he did was sign up for a National Immunization Day. Ahmed's was the first case of polio diagnosed in Australia in 21 years, so he knows firsthand that until polio is eradicated worldwide, it has the potential to strike virtually anywhere.

While a student in Australia, Ahmed contracted polio after a visit home to Pakistan - one of four remaining endemic countries, along with Afghanistan, India, and Nigeria. When he returned again to Pakistan after being treated, he contacted Rotarian Jenny Horton in Islamabad, who works as technical

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consultant for the World Health Organization. She helped him get involved with local immunization activities.

**Ahmed immunizes a child in Pakistan, one of the four remaining polio-endemic countries.**



Ahmed participated in a five-day immunization campaign, held in October, which reached 32.2 million children. It included three National Immunization Days and two mop-up days, with health care workers and volunteers going door to door to administer the vaccine.

Through PolioPlus Partners, all team members were equipped with a Rotary cap, ID badge, and lanyard.

Since Rotary launched its PolioPlus program in 1985, more than two billion children have received the oral polio vaccine, and the number of cases has declined by 99 percent.

Ahmed was kept in isolation during his stay at Melbourne's Box Hill Hospital until he tested negative for the poliovirus. Alerted by Horton, Rotarians in Australia replaced his clothing, which had to be destroyed, brought him games and newspapers and, above all, let him know someone cared while he endured constant media scrutiny.

It's believed that Ahmed's childhood polio immunizations in Pakistan protected him from permanent damage. Forced to leave Australia because his student visa expired, he hopes to return this month to resume his studies.

## **December Happy Dollars Will Go To The Manna Food Center**

- ✓ For every donated dollar, \$.94 goes directly to feeding the hungry of Montgomery County.
- ✓ A \$25 contribution provides a family of four with five days of emergency food.
- ✓ A \$75 gift funds trucks and drivers so that they can collect 4,000 pounds of edible, nutritious food from local grocery stores, food that instead of being tossed in a dumpster will feed 50 families.
- ✓ A \$150 donation allows Manna to deliver bread to 25 low-income communities.

*Consider making a donation in the name of someone, as a gift or memorial.*

Manna Food Center  
614 Lofstrand Lane  
Rockville, MD 20850.

Manna Food Center is a 501(c)(3) organization.

**Seasons Greetings  
Happy 2008  
from the  
Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club**

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